

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

DEK SW Plan file
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July 13, 2001

The Honorable Carolyn L. Floyd
710 Mill Bay Road
Kodiak AK, 996 15

Dear Mayor Floyd:

Thank you for your letter of June 18, 2001 concerning the Alaska Marine Highway System Ferry (AMHS) Dock in Kodiak and the future homeport of the *MN Tustumena*. I am encouraged to see the City of Kodiak eager to support the *M/V Tustumena*.

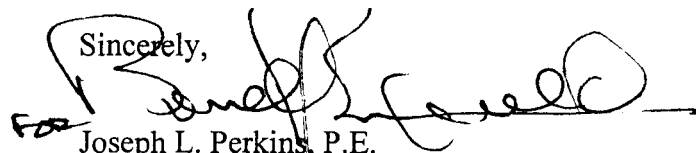
I understand your concerns about a better mooring facility for the AMHS in Kodiak and I echo them. Though not currently in the State Transportation Improvement Plan, the Kodiak Dock is an issue with the Department, and it will remain so as the Prince William Sound/Copper River and Southwest Transportation Plans are implemented. Your alternatives on Near Island and the St Paul Harbor Spit appear attractive. The Uski Island alternative is not as attractive as there is no convenient way to get to the island, unless the City has plans to build a bridge to Near Island.

While the transportation plans are still not totally resolved, I anticipate better service to Southwest communities when the Cordova Shuttle arrives in Prince William Sound in 2005. I realize that may seem like a long time from now, but there are a lot of "building blocks" that the Department needs to put into place in Southeast and Southcentral to free up the increased service for Southwest Alaska. The Department is seeking legislative authorization for a number of these projects this year and looks forward to your support.

The homeporting of the *Tustumena* is an operational issue that requires additional study. Issues such as schedules, logistical support, crew "change port" needs, and general accessibility all need to be studied.

Please don't hesitate to call or write for updates to the plans. My Point of Contact is the Alaska Marine Highway System Planner, Jim Potdevin, (907) 464-8864.

Sincerely,



Joseph L. Perkins, P.E.
Commissioner

cc: Senator Alan Austerman, 112 Mill Bay Rd Kodiak, AK 99 615
Representative Gary Stevens, 112 Mill Bay Rd Kodiak, AK 99615
Kodiak Island Borough Mayor and Assembly